

Approved For Release 2002/05/09 : CIA-RDP79R00961A001000030029-3

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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Lt. Col. George H. Wilson  
Chairman, GMIC

FROM : Howard Wiedemann, State Department  
Member of GMIC

SUBJECT: Post Mortem on NIE 11-5-57

DATE: June 6, 1957

1. Regarding the action specified in paragraphs 5(a) and 5(b) of the Post Mortem, I assume that the subcommittee for Guidance to Collectors would have as its principal immediate responsibility the exploitation of existing collection methods and the development of new ones. Apart from establishing the subcommittee, therefore, GMIC's action would seem to consist essentially of suggesting new methods of collection for the subcommittee's more detailed consideration. An example of what I have in mind is the collection of intelligence on IRBM and ICBM test firings; I assume, however, that the next step on this matter would be taken by the subcommittee rather than by GMIC itself.

2. Paragraph 5(c) in the post mortem has two aspects: (a) improving the exploitation of available GM intelligence, (b) improving the IAC community's coordination effort. Regarding the latter, I feel that the long-postponed discussion of GMIC's activities would serve this purpose. Since the critiques of GMIC have now been collated, the next step evidently is to devote a GMIC meeting to this matter.

3. Improving the exploitation of available GM intelligence poses three problems for GMIC. First, one of the most troublesome parts of NIE 11-5-57 was estimating the most probable Soviet GM program. It was generally agreed that this problem was partly outside the scope of GMIC's responsibility, but I believe that everyone also recognized that it was a very direct concern to GMIC. In any case I do not feel that GMIC should take any action until the ad hoc group under General Bull has reported to the IAC; what action GMIC can or should take at that time can be best judged after this group's recommendations are finalized. Secondly, I would like to reiterate a proposal I made at the time of the GMIC contribution to NIE 11-5-57. Namely, that a time-scale analysis on US counterpart missiles be undertaken with a view toward making explicit the basis for our judgment of Soviet time-scales that are largely or entirely estimated by analogy. Lastly, it is my view that GMIC would perform a useful service to the IAC community generally and would help in improving future revisions of NIE 11-5-57 if, as a matter of standard practice, it produced coordinated reports on specific aspects of Soviet guided missiles. In this way a written and hopefully well-documented basis for many of the intelligence judgments in the NIE would be available to all concerned.

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